Engaging Emergency Management Leadership
To be champions of disability integration and inclusive planning

Dawn Brantley, ADAC
- Sheltering Coordinator, VDEM
- Certified ADA Coordinator
- Former Disability Integration Advisor, FEMA (Retired)
- Former Regional Inclusive Emergency Planner, Hampton Roads Planning District Commission
- Former Emergency Programs Manager, Municipality of Anchorage, AK Office of Emergency Management
Start with

WHY?

- Why is this important?
- Why get leadership involved?
- Why lead from the top?
Federal guidance was minimally helpful

**Background**

Staff proponents  In-Season Hurricane Review
Background

Federal guidance was minimally helpful

Staff proponents  In-Season Hurricane Review
Leading from the top down

- Senior leadership
- Agency
- Staff
- VDEM
- Localities
What leadership did we engage?

- Governor's Office
- Secretary's Office
- Agency head
- Senior leadership
- Planning
- Response - including Public Affairs/External Affairs

Challenges we encountered

FUNDING complexity

Prezi
What if?

- Governor's Office
- Secretary's Office
- Agency head
- Senior leadership
- Planning
- Response - including Public Affairs/External Affairs
What matters to leadership?

**Morally correct**
- "This is what every government agency should do." - Donna Pletch, Strategic Planning Branch Chief
- "Accessibility and individuals with disability are important everywhere else, but not in emergency management. Why not?" - Susan Mongold, Deputy Director of Mission Support
- "In emergency management, we don't need to focus on those who can get out on their own; those we simply enable to get out. We need to focus on those who can not get out on their own." - Brett Burdick, Chief Deputy Director

Improves our own planning and response
- Cannot accurately plan and prepare without individuals who live with disabilities as partners. - Susan Mongold
- Ensure provision of the same level of service. - Donna Pletch
- Our role is to assist localities who are providing direct response to individuals. We need to set the example, create models, and lead by doing. - Brett Burdick
Challenges we encountered
Advice from VDEM leadership

- Educate, educate, educate
- As always - relationships and partnerships in advance
- Make it visible
- Cooperative problem solving vs adversarial
- Avoid assuming you cannot be successful
- Don't choose not to make changes because the solution is not perfect
- Use where you are to champion future progress
- Find a champion
- Budget, timing and pertinence
- Leadership has to be willing to listen to staff
IDEAS into ACTION

And...

Supplementary Needs Support Teams
- Character
- Partnership with NFTC
- Training
- Evaluation
- Finance

Virginia Mason
Core Task Force
Access & Functional Needs Advisory Committee (AFNAC)

- Mission
- Membership
- Plan review and revision
- Participation in Virginia Mass Care Task Force
- Included in all Disability Partner Calls
- Sharing information with their staff, clients
- We listen to our SMEs

CHALLENGES:
- Expanding to include community and local representation
- Disaster response & recovery activities interfere with meetings
- In-person meetings pose travel challenge
- ECOs versus SMEs
Advisory Committee (AFNA)

- Mission
- Membership
- Plan review and revision
- Participation in Virginia Mass Care Task Force
- Included in all Disability Partner Calls
- Sharing information with their staff, clients
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CHALLENGES:

- Expanding to include community and local representation
- Disaster response & recovery activities interfere with meetings
- In-person meetings pose travel challenge
- ECOs versus SMEs
• Board for People with Disabilities
• Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services
• Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired
• Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
• Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services
• Department of Education
• Department of Emergency Management
• Department of Health
• Department of Housing and Community Development
• Department of Medical Assistance Services
• Department of Rail and Public Transportation
• Department of Social Services
• Department of Veterans Services
• Office of the Attorney General
• Leadership
• 4 Local Emergency Managers
Disability Partner Calls
Functional & Access Needs Network
Grant applications 2014 SHSGP
Whole community rating on applications
Virginia Mass Care Task Force

Membership includes:
- ADA Coordinators
- Centers for Independent Living
- Disability service agencies
- Local disability service organizations

New strategy = universal accessibility, disability integration as a TOP priority
Functional & Access Needs Support Teams

- Purpose
- Partnership with MRC
- Training
- Exercise

Functions:

Disaster Response
Functions:

Disaster Response

Evacuation Support
- Relational efforts
- Assistance with removal items
- Lodging, boarding, embarking A, deboarding
- Coordinating and tracking personnel items, pets

Shelter Support
-.Registration and medical needs assessments
- MD/HealthCocs assistance with agency or facility
- Ongoing identification of equipment and services needs
- Notification of barriers and accessibility issues

Funding
- Grants
- As part of other voluntary organizations
- Anchorage post, Staff time + $0.00
Evacuation Support

- Paratransit drivers
- Assistance with personal items
- Loading, boarding, unloading & disembarking
- Logging and tracking personal items, pets
Shelter Support

- Registration and functional needs assessments
- NON-MEDICAL assistance with activities of daily living
- Ongoing identification of equipment and service needs
- Identification of barriers and accessibility issues
Funding

- Grants
- As part of other voluntary organizations
- Anchorage cost = Staff time + $0.00
Functional & Access Needs Support Teams

- Purpose
- Partnership with MRC
- Training

Functions:

- Disaster Response
- Exercise
And...

- Sheltering Coordinator
- ADA Coordinator Certification
- Disability Partner Calls
- ADAC reviewing COVEOP
IDEAS into ACTION
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